



**Nile Basin Development Challenge**

**Fogera Innovation Platform Closing Event**



**03 January 2014**

**Woreta Town**

**Nile Basin Development Challenge Fogera Woreda IP closing event**

**Zelalem Lema and Elias Damtew (ILRI)**

**January 03, 2014**

**Fogera Woreda, Woreta town**

**Introduction**

As the Nile Basin Development Challenge draws to an end, closing ceremonies have been organized in all three research sites. The event was organized in Fogera Woreda on the 3rd of January , 2013 with a number of brief sessions that reflected the three year NBDC activities in retrospect and informed what the future holds for the work that has been done through the innovation platforms. The event was started with self-introduction and welcoming remark by Elias followed by an opening statement by Dr. Mussie.

In his opening remark Dr. Mussie, IP TG member representing Bahir Dar University, stated how the IP and its activities evolved over time and how IP as a new approach to jointly plan and implement interventions has benefited them to think and work differently in research and/or development interventions. He believes that the joint fodder intervention that have been tried in Fogera draws number of lessons that we should all consider in our future related works. Planning jointly with farmers and experts is a good lesson that we have learned from this IP approach. There was also lack of collaboration in the past but the IP approach created a favorable environment to work together mainly between University, Research, Experts and Farmers. Awareness have been created among the farmers and experts involved in the IP process about the main challenges of NRM in the woreda with possible solutions through workshops, intervention, field day and trainings and experience sharing.

**NBDC activities through IP**

A brief report was presented by keffie, a TG facilitator representing local NGO is called Ethio-wetlands and Natural Resource Association (EWNRA). He highlighted the major achievements, challenges faced and the way forward of the IP processes and outcomes over the last three years. Major success were:

* Learning new ways of doing things through IPs (participatory approach, joint activity planning and implementation, facilitation of IPs, new and improved feed resources etc)
* Better communication and collaboration among the different actors)
* Good participation of farmers in the fodder intervention
* Capacity building and awareness creation for both farmers and experts
* Introduction of new forages species to the area

**Major challenges mentioned were:**

* Change of faces and lack of commitment from IP members
* High staff turnover and also change of government structure that ends shuffling of experts to different structure
* All IP members have their own duties and planning of IP meetings and joint activities were a challenge to find time and days that suits all
* Delay of budget release for the first year intervention

Many positive reflections were made by participants on the brief report but some of the weaknesses mentioned were;

* The report only focuses on successes on forage intervention with no emphasis on achievements around rainwater management
* There is no financial report as part of the activity report
* The report does not clearly show what changes it has bought with regard to building capacity
* Lessons learned should have been boldly stated
* No information on how to guarantee sustainability

The presenter and IP TG members have taken all the weaknesses as “points-to-be-corrected” and gave a brief financial report emphasizing how a great deal of work has been done by the IP with the small fund at their disposal. It was also mentioned that the number of beneficiary farmers/60/ is small showing the flaws in the work to scale up/out the intervention. A farmer form Chebie village mentioned the problem associated with equitable share of fodder from communal lands that has been a challenge to effectively implement the fodder intervention, although change in attitude is coming in time. The farmer further explain the benefit that they have received from restricting their animals from the communal grazing land. He mentioned that they have harvested 92 “kemere” which was estimated to be 25,000 ETB which was shared equally to 47 HHs irrespective of the livestock size they own.

**Official closing of NBDC and emerging opportunities**

Zelalem announced to participants the formal closing of NBDC and the continuation of the IP work through IWMI and ILRI joint project called Water Land and Ecosystem (WLE) that is intending to capitalize on the work that has been done by the local IP. He gave an explanation on the initial assumptions and objectives of the innovation platforms, why and how it is established and major challenges IPs in NBDC wanted to address in the three different intervention sites (Fogera, Jeldu and Diga Woredas). He shared the lessons that was drawn from the Fogera IP activities in general which he puts the lessons to be a learning for all of the IP members to consider for the future activities under WLE. He finally gave some information on the way forward through other projects and the need to continue working in collaboration in future engagements too. Regional and zone level involvement will be given due attention for the future work. He mentioned that the proposal development on the free grazing strategy that was developed through WAT-A-GAME is undergoing and there is a plan to work with the regional level committee that was established for this purpose within the coming month.

Participants expressed their happiness that the IP work will continue and renewed their commitment to work better based on lessons they have learned from NDBC. A participant from Abay Basin Authority (ABA) stressed on the need to work more on capacity building and knowledge transfer. A researcher from Adet agricultural research center also underscored a better focus on policy influence at the higher/national level. Zelalem mentioned there could be some slight changes in approach based on the gaps that is learned from NBDC IP work but the whole IP approach will continues as a major research for development intervention tool. It was also mentioned that NBDC has been working at different levels where the national level stakeholder engagement was being used as a platform to influence policy from the evidences we compile at the local level.

**Presentations**

Two presentations were made by a regional livestock expert and a graduate fellow that was supported by NBDC for his thesis work. The first presentation was on a new draft grazing land management guideline that is being prepared by the regional livestock agency. Participants appreciated to have a chance to see the draft document before it is implemented. Participants shared their views on the content of draft document where some important comments were taken by the presenter to improve the document before it is indorsed. There is a shared conviction by participants that the document could be more sharpened with stakeholder consultation at different levels but the problem is usually on practical implementation of the manual. Once the draft document is consulted with stakeholders and indorsed, it could be shared with stakeholders to be used as a reference in future interventions in the area. The second presenter, the MSc student, shared his major findings of his study on “small ruminant opportunities and challenges” in the area where fodder problem has emerged as a major challenge for potential intensification. The participants expressed their thoughts about the improved breed of sheep that will benefit the farmers better.

**Acknowledgements**

Finally participant farmers from four kebeles, IP technical group members and some Woreda sector offices were credited for the contribution they have made to the IP and the fodder intervention through certificates and farm tools. A total of 15 champion farmers from the fodder intervention were awarded with farm tools (15 hoes and 15 spades). It was an exciting moment for participants that their efforts are acknowledged and are incentivized which they said it motivate them to work with commitment in the future.

**Closing remarks**

Ato Challachew, Fogera Woreda Office of Agriculture, made a brief closing remarks. He acknowledged IWMI and ILRI as a research institutions and key development partner for Fogera woreda in trying to address the main NRM issue through research and pilot intervention. He appreciated the effort that was made by the institutions to help us continue the NBDC activities with other project. He said the Fogera woreda administration and sector offices will be more committed for the future activities. He official announce the closing of the event and also the NBDC project in Fogera.

**International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**

**NBDC closing event, Fogera**

**Date: January 4, 2014**

**Place: Woreta**

**Draft Agenda**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time/Duration** | **Agenda** | **Facilitator** | **Responsible** |
| 2:30-3:00 | Registration |  | Zelalem L |
| 3:00 – 3:15 | Self-introduction, welcome and agenda update | Tewdros | Elias D. |
| 3:15-3:30 | Opening remark | Tewdros | Dr. Kindu |
| 3:30-4:10 | Brief report of the project (local IP) activities over the last three years  -Achievements  -Challenges  -Recommendations | Tewdros | Keffie |
| 4:10-4:30 | Discussion and reflection on project report | Tewdros | Keffie |
| 4:30-4:50 | Tea /coffee break |  |  |
| 4:50-5:10 | Officially announce the formal closing of NBDC-Rainwater Management project and the continuation of the IP work through coming projects (WLE) | Keffie | Zelalem L. |
| 5:10-5:30 | Brief presentation of MSc research finding – on small ruminant fattening and reflection on the presentation | Keffie | Getachew Molla |
| 5:30-6:10 | Presentation by regional expert on free grazing land management draft manual and reflection | Dr. Musie | Ato Fentahun |
| 6:10-6:40 | Prize- Acknowledge partners & individuals for their contribution to the IP process and outcome (Certificates and farm tools) | Dr. Musie | Dr Tesfaye, Ato Challachew, Ato Keffie, |
|  | Lunch/refreshment (arranged by IP) |  |  |

# List of participants on the Fogera NBDC closing event

| **No** | **Name of participants** | **Organization** | **Role** | **Mob** | **E-mail** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Dr. Tesfaye Feyisa (PhD) | Amhara Regional Agricultural Institute | Senior Researcher | 0911039605 |  |
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| 4 | Mussie H/Melekot | Bahir Dar University, College of Agriculture, Research and Community Service | Director | 0918700333 | [musiehailu@yahoo.com](mailto:musiehailu@yahoo.com) |
| 5 | Endalkachew Naod | Amhara Region Bureau of Environmental Protection and Land Administration and Use | Expert | 0918085324 | [Endalknaod@yahoo.com](mailto:Endalknaod@yahoo.com) |
| 6 | Fentahun Eneyew | Amhara Region, Livestock Resource Development and Agency | Expert | 0918241806 | [Fentahun\_en@yahoo.com](mailto:Fentahun_en@yahoo.com) |
| 7 | Sete Abde | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | Extension Head | 0918026041 |  |
| 8 | Chalachew Molla | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | Head | 0918071399 |  |
| 9 | Muluken Wondirad | Fogera Woreda Water and Energy Office | Head | 0918714108 | [Muluken.w@yahoo.com](mailto:Muluken.w@yahoo.com) |
| 10 | Gebre Tesema | Fogera Woreda Cooperative Office | Head | 0918189146 |  |
| 11 | Kindu | Fogera Livestock Agency | Head | 0918094924 |  |
| 12 | Menberu Tegegne | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918094266 |  |
| 13 | Dereje Tadesse | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918029328 |  |
| 14 | Bazezew Molla | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918096716 |  |
| 15 | Seid Ebrahim | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0915759908 |  |
| 16 | Teka Belete | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, Wej Kebele | DA | 0918189243 |  |
| 17 | Tadele Azez | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, Natural Resource Management | Head | 0918188838 |  |
| 18 | Chalachew Kassie | Fogera woreda Finance and Economic Development Office | Head | 0918029158 |  |
| 19 | Getachew Molla | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, livestock agency | Expert | 0918073395 | [getchmolla@gmail.com](mailto:getchmolla@gmail.com) |
| 20 | Misganaw Ashagrie | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, Natural Resource Management Process | Expert | 0918095658 |  |
| 21 | Anteneh Zewdie | Abay Basin Authority, Tana sub-basin project | Expert | 0918312738 |  |
| 22 | Tacahewt Molla | Fogrea Woreda, Office of Agriculture, Natural Resource Management | Expert | 0918220317 |  |
| 23 | Zinash Berie | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918321213 |  |
| 24 | Abyot Biremagn | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918307048 |  |
| 25 | Kelemu Ayele | Fogera Woreda, Office of Agriculture, | DA | 0918094291 |  |
| 26 | Guade Arage | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 27 | Chere Kindu | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 28 | Damte beyene | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 29 | Teshome Atalele | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 30 | Lakew Kindu | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 31 | Asfaw Sefe | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 32 | Netadel Damte | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 33 | Alemitu AYele | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 34 | Bosena Adugna | Deba Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 35 | Gede Moges | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 36 | Kasanesh Arage | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 37 | Gashaw Belete | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 38 | Sisit Negash | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 39 | Tesfaye Anawte | Deba Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 40 | Yalemwork Andarge | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 41 | Molla Mesafint | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 42 | Hunilign Zegeye | Wej Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 43 | Gebiyanesh Tigabu | Kokit Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 44 | Gebeyew Ayele | Kokit Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 45 | Agegn Moges | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 46 | Abera Banti | Kokit Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
| 47 | Abebaw Nadew | Alember Kebele Administration | Farmer |  |  |
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